



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Four Headquarters
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
September 29, 2005

Decision Notice Ulm Pishkun Interpretive Trail Improvements

Proposed Action:

The following actions are proposed to eliminate hazardous trail conditions and improve trail drainage on the Ulm Pishkun Interpretive Trail:

- 1) Relocate approximately 600 feet of trail around the hazardous soil piping area and abandon and rehabilitate about 50 feet of existing trail within the soil piping area. The segment of trail is located at the end of the graveled trail that extends west from the visitor center. The trail currently traverses through two soil-piping areas for a distance of approximately 100 feet. The soil piping presents holes that may cause someone to fall and weakened areas that may collapse under-foot. A small six feet long by four feet wide footbridge would be installed over an existing drainage on the relocated trail. It will be built and placed on the existing ground without any soil disturbance in such a manner that the water in the natural drainage will flow under it. The footbridge surface will maintain the same tread elevation as the soil tread.
- 2) Relocate approximately 976 feet of trail, at an average grade of 12 percent to tie back into the original trail at an acceptable location and install three small four feet wide footbridges. This segment of trail is located approximately thirty feet uphill from the relocation mentioned above. This relocation is necessary because the existing trail travels into a gumbo clay drainage creating a slipping and falling hazard to the public when the site is wet. After traveling about 120 feet in the drainage the trail switchbacks out of it, and then travels straight uphill on an outcrop of clay at about a 65-degree slope. The first bridge is about 8 feet long, the second is about 10 feet long and the third is about 14 feet long. They will be laid on the natural surface without any surface disturbance in such a manner that a trail walker will be able to step on the bridge and keep walking at a natural pace.
- 3) Relocate approximately 750 feet of trail with a reduced grade between 7 and 9 percent. This segment of trail is located on the east side of the park

approximately one-half of the distance between the Visitor Center and the top of the jump. The re-routed trail will be located perpendicular to the fall line, which will allow water to flow across the trail and not down it, as is occurring on the existing trail. No surface disturbance will be necessary to construct the trail. The grass will be cut to establish the route for the public. Signs will also be used so that hikers can easily follow the trail.

Public Process and Comment:

A public announcement in several local newspapers on September 9, 2005 advised the public that the EA amendment was available for review on the FWP web site and at Ulm Pishkun State Park. The public was further advised that a two-week public comment period ending on September 23 had been established. No requests for the EA amendment were received nor did we receive any public comments.

Decision:

I have reviewed the supplemental amendment to the original EA and determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required. Many positive impacts from the trail relocation were identified. I have decided to proceed with the proposed project as described above and in the EA amendment.

By notification in this decision notice, The EA amendment is adopted as the final without modifications or additions. The original Environmental Assessment and amendment may be viewed, or obtained from the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Four, Great Falls, MT. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, or the EA, please direct requests to Mr. Mike Aderhold, Region Four Supervisor, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, (406) 454-5846.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Mike Aderhold, Region 4 Supervisor